Terrors of Dracula

SEPT 1981

$2.50

BLOODY

SHOCKING TERROR in STRANGE VAMPIRE

THE SLITHERING SLIMY CREATURES

DEAD the DEMONS

FEATURING

HORROR WITHOUT A HEAD

JEB'S BLOODY GHOS

NEVER KILL A CORPSE

09
0 71486 02960

NOVELLE

Terrors of Dracula

SEPT. 1981 CONTENTS VOL. 3 NO. 2

THE STRANGE VAMPIRE 4
Incredible screams of terror echo as the sharp fangs of the Baron sink into soft flesh.

HORROR WITHOUT A HEAD 11
A gruesome shocker of a ghastly apparition that rips its head off and leaves a trail of death in its wake.

JEB'S BLOODY GHOST 27
A horrifying tale about a dead man who lived to have vengeance on his betrayers across the span of centuries.

THE CREATURES 27
From beyond our world came the strange creatures with a mission that staggered the imagination and struck terror in the heart of earthlings.

THINGS OF HORROR 33
"Superstitious bunk!" was Will Gordon's thought until his own eyes bulged with fear as the tree men with gnarled faces and branchy arms reached for his trembling body.

THE VAMPIRE 40
Weird was the best description of the vampire whose lust for warm blood was overcome by an even greater force with a wooden stake.

NEVER KILL A CORPSE 46
". . . and why not?" spoke the sorcerer's apprentice as he tampered with powers from beyond only to be swept into a demon's vortex of unspeakable horror.

THE DEAD DEMONS 53
From the depth of Dracula's crypt loathesome creatures rose and began their ghoulish attack on the living.

TERRORS OF DRACULA is published quarterly by Modern Day Periodicals, Inc., 79 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016. The publisher assumes no responsibility for unsolicited material. Any resemblance to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. All rights reserved. Copyright © 1981 under Universal Copyright Conventions. Single copy price: $2.50. Application to mail at second class rate is pending at New York, New York. Printed in U.S.A.

the STRANGE VAMPIRE

LUXEMBERG IS ONE OF THE SMALLEST STATES OF EUROPE, BUT OVER ITS FERTILE FIELDS ARMIES MARCHED AND BLOOD HAS FLOWED FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS. RELICS OF BATTLE ARE SCATTERED IN ITS RUBBLED SOIL. GREAT FAMILIES HAVE PERISHED AND DARK LEGENDS HAVE ARISEN WHICH HAUNT THE COUNTRYSIDE AND STRIKE TERROR INTO IGNORANT HEARTS.

BUT AS THE ELATED FARMERS LEFT THE FIELD...
WHO HAS TAKEN THE SUICIDE SWORD OF BARON DES GARENNES? WHO HAS UNCOVERED MY ANCIENT DISGRACE!
WHAT HAVE I RETURNED TO? MY CASTLE IN RUINS! MY LAND RAVISHED! THE SWORD OF MY DISGRACE WAS PLUCKED FROM MY HEART WHILE I LAY IN UNHALLOWED GROUND!
ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF WILTZ...
HERE LIVE THE GHOULS WHO ROBBED ME! I SHALL HAVE MY SWORD BACK AND THEIR BLOOD, TOO, THE PEASANT SLAVES!
SACRE! WHO-- WHO ARE YOU! WH--WHAT DO YOU WANT?
YOU SWINE! I AM BARON CHARLES DES GERENNES! WHERE IS THE SWORD YOU TORE FROM MY BODY?
GAAAR! LET ME GO! MY FRIEND CLEMENCE TOOK IT TO LUXEMBERG TO THE MUSEUM OF THE WAR COLLEGE!
YOU HAVE AROUSED A FEVER IN ME! MY THROAT IS DRY! I NEED YOUR BLOOD TO SUSTAIN ME!
YOUR STRUGGLES ARE USELESS! BE QUIET!
AAAAAAHHHHH

JEAN'S DEATH CRIES ROUSED NEARBY FARMERS...
THOSE SCREAMS CAME FROM THE BARN!
IT SOUNDED LIKE JEAN VALANCE!

AGH, IT IS JEAN VALANCE!
LOOK UP THERE! A STRANGE BEAST LIKE A GIANT BAT. FLYING AWAY!

A DOCTOR PUSHED THROUGH THE HORRIFIED GROUP...
MY FRIENDS, THIS I HAVE NEVER SEEN IN MY 30 YEARS OF MEDICAL PRACTICE! JEAN HAS NO BLOOD LEFT! THE WOUND WAS MADE BY A VAMPIRE!
A VAMPIRE! YES, THAT EXPLAINS IT-- THE GIANT BAT, JEAN'S SCREAMS!

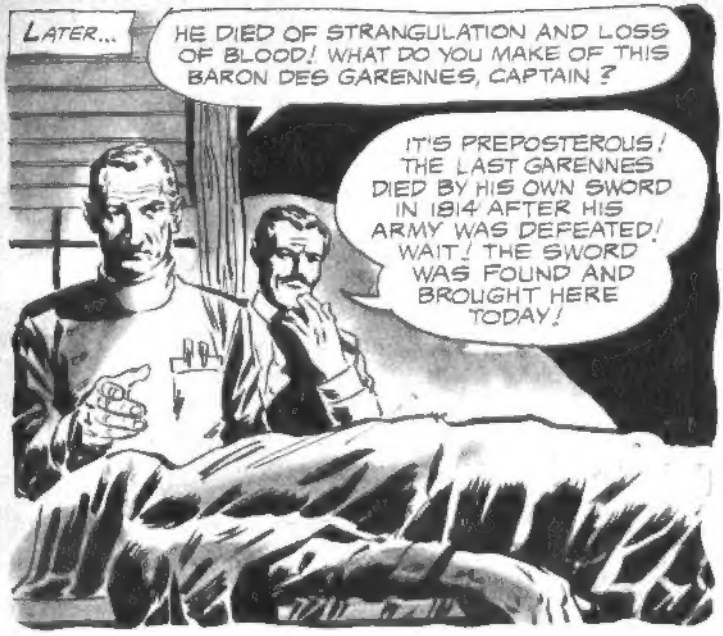
MEANWHILE, AT THE GATES OF THE WAR COLLEGE IN LUXEMBERG...
OPEN THE GATES! I DEMAND ENTRANCE TO THE MUSEUM OF WAR RELICS!
THE MUSEUM IS CLOSED! YOU CANNOT ENTER IT UNTIL TOMORROW MORNING AT NINE!

OUT OF MY WAY, YOU INSOLENT WORM! I AM BARON, GENERAL DES GARENNES!
I DON'T CARE WHO YOU ARE! I HAVE MY ORDERS! CLEAR OUT, YOU OLD LUNATIC!

AAH, YOUR THROAT IS LIKE A MAGNET! ONLY YOUR DEATH SHALL SATISFY MY CRAVING NOW!
LET ME GO! YOUR HAND IS LIKE COLD STEEL!
AAAHHH

I HAVE DRUNK MY FILL! NOW I MUST FLY AWAY BEFORE THE GUARDS ARRIVE!

A HUGE MAN... STRANGE OLD UNIFORM... SAID HE WAS BARON DES GARENNES! HE CHOKED ME-- AND... AAARRR!
POOR DEVIL! SUMMON THE GUARD OFFICER AND A DOCTOR!


LATER...
HE DIED OF STRANGULATION AND LOSS OF BLOOD! WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THIS BARON DES GARENNES, CAPTAIN?
IT'S PREPOSTEROUS! THE LAST GARENNES DIED BY HIS OWN SWORD IN 1914 AFTER HIS ARMY WAS DEFEATED! WAIT! THE SWORD WAS FOUND AND BROUGHT HERE TODAY!

THE COMMANDING GENERAL WAS SUMMONED...
THIS BARON DES GARENNES WILL RETURN FOR HIS SWORD! DO NOT DISPLAY IT IN THE MUSEUM! WATCH FOR HIM!
YES, SIR!

THE NEXT DAY...
MY SWORD! NOW I SHALL GET BACK MY PRECIOUS SWORD!
IT'S THAT FIEND OF A BARON! I WILL ALERT THE GUARDS IN THE MUSEUM!

THE MUSEUM CRAWLS WITH SOLDIERS! AH THE SWORD DISPLAY! I THINK I SEE MINE THERE AND I WILL HAVE IT!

GET AWAY FROM THERE, YOU MADMAN! AFTER HIM, MEN!
MADMAN? WHEN I HAVE THIS SWORD IN MY HAND, I'LL CUT THOSE WORDS OUT OF YOUR THROAT!
CRASH!
TINKLE!

BACK, YOU DOGS! I WAS NAPOLEON'S RIGHT HAND! I'LL HAVE YOUR BLOOD!
CUT THE BARON DOWN! SHOW HIM NO MERCY!

DIE, YOU PARADE SOLDIER! BRING ON A WHOLE COMPANY, AND I'LL SLAY THEM ALL!

HE'S GONE!
NO! LOOK... A GIANT BAT FLYING AWAY WITH A SWORD! WE HAVE BEEN FIGHTING A VAMPIRE!

LATER...
CAPTAIN PARTOUT IS WOUNDED AND THREE MEN ARE DEAD, SIR!
WHAT? YOU MEAN HE WAS ABLE TO SUBDUE A WHOLE COMPANY OF GUARDS?

THIS CREATURE IS NOT OF FLESH AND BLOOD! HE IS A FIEND! A VAMPIRE!
DISMISS YOUR MEN! I'M CALLING A STAFF MEETING INSTANTLY!

GENERAL, THERE IS A MAN OUTSIDE FROM WILTZ, HE WISHES AN AUDIENCE! IT IS ABOUT THE BARON!
SEND HIM IN! MAYBE HE CAN SHED SOME LIGHT ON THE MATTER!

AND YOUR FRIEND WAS KILLED IN THE SAME MANNER! A LARGE BAT WAS SEEN TO FLY AWAY AFTER HIS DEATH!
OUI, MON GENERAL! I WISH WE HAD NEVER FOUND THIS ACCURSED SWORD! IT'S THAT SWORD HE'S AFTER!

AN HOUR LATER...
GENTLEMEN, RESEARCH TELLS ME THAT ONLY A SWORD THRUST THROUGH THE HEART WILL KILL THIS VAMPIRE! HIS SWORD!
THEN SOMEONE MUST BE FOUND TO DUEL WITH THIS SUPERHUMAN CREATURE! I HAVE IT! COL. MOSELLE, THE FENCING MASTER!

THIS IS YOUR ENEMY, COL. MOSELLE! HISTORY SHOWS HE WAS A GREAT SWORDSMAN AND STRONG AS A LION!
I CAN ONLY OFFER MY LIFE! I WILL KILL THIS BEAST OR DIE TRYING!
HERE IS HIS SWORD! MAY YOU BURY IT DEEP IN HIS HEART!
I AM READY, GENERAL! WE WILL DRIVE TO THE RUINS ON HIS CASTLE NEAR WILTZ!

MEANWHILE...
I HAVE BEEN TRICKED! THIS IS NOT MY SWORD! I MUST GO BACK TO THE MUSEUM! WHAT IS THAT I HEAR?
COL. MOSELLE HAD ARRIVED ON HIS MISSION OF VENGEANCE...
MAY I PRESENT YOU WITH YOUR SWORD, BARON! WHICH I HOPE TO RUN THROUGH YOUR BLACK HEART!
MY SWORD! YOU FOOL! IT IS USELESS TO DUEL WITH ME! I WAS THE GREATEST SWORDSMAN IN LUXEMBURG!
I'LL MAKE SHORT WORK OF YOU!
NOT SO FAST, BARON! I HAVE SOME TRICKS MYSELF!
SCLANG!

HAH, I HAVE DRAWN FIRST BLOOD!
ONLY A SCRATCH, BARON! FIRST BLOOD IS NOT ALWAYS LAST!
RIIIPP!
A BATTLE OF GIANTS! BUT THE BARON HAS THE UPPER HAND!
COL. MOSELLE IS WEAKENING! HOW LONG CAN THIS SAVAGE FIGHT LAST?
CLANG

YOU DOG, HOW DARE YOU DUEL WITH BARON DES GARENNES? SAY YOUR PRAYERS!
NOT WHILE THERE IS STRENGTH IN MY ARMS!
CLANG
CLANG

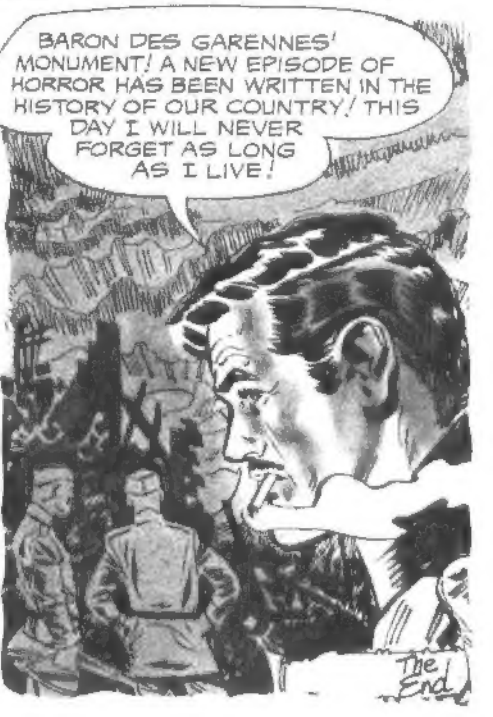
SUDDENLY, WITH LIGHTNING SWIFTNESS, THE TIDE OF BATTLE TURNED...
BACK, YOU HELL FIEND! THE ADVANTAGE IS MINE!
HELAS! I AM DISARMED!
SWISH
CLANG

RETURN TO YOUR GRAVE AND MAY YOUR BONES ROT!

COL. MOSELLE, YOU WERE MAGNIFICENT! YOU DUELLED WITH THE DEVIL HIMSELF AND CONQUERED!
LOOK! HIS FACE IS SHRIVELING AWAY TO DUST!

NOW WE CAN RETURN THE SWORD TO THE MUSEUM!
NO, THE SWORD MUST REMAIN IN HIS BODY! IT WILL KEEP HIM IN HIS GRAVE! LISTEN! WHAT IS THAT RUMBLING NOISE?

AWAY! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES! THE CASTLE WALLS ARE FALLING!


BARON DES GARENNES' MONUMENT! A NEW EPISODE OF HORROR HAS BEEN WRITTEN IN THE HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY! THIS DAY I WILL NEVER FORGET AS LONG AS I LIVE!
The End

THE HALLS OF DEERE CASTLE SHRIEKED WITH THE MAD HOWLING LAUGHTER OF A GHOST WHICH WAS CALLED THE...

HORROR WITHOUT A HEAD

SHERARD HAD COME TO GRUMLEY TO TRACE HIS ANCESTRY. BUT HE FOUND NO TRACE OF THEM THERE.
YOU'VE FOUND NO TRACE OF YOUR ANCESTORS SO YOU CAN'T MAKE A FILM ON THAT!
MY SECOND CHOICE WILL BE TO FILM THE STORY OF GRUMLEY'S HAUNTED CASTLE!
FILMING THE STORY OF THE GHOST? HA HA! YOU COULD SPEND A NIGHT THERE! SEE WHAT HAPPENS AT MIDNIGHT!
LAVINIA-- PLEASE DON'T JOKE ABOUT IT! I SAY THE PLACE HAD BEST BE LEFT ALONE!
BUT I CAN'T LEAVE IT ALONE! IT'S A NATURAL! IT'LL MAKE A TERRIFIC SHOW! SURELY YOU'RE NOT SAYING YOU BELIEVE IN GHOSTS, SIR STANDISH?
WELL-- IF YOU PIN ME DOWN-- NO, I DON'T! BUT WHY TEMPT FATE? OH, WELL, I'LL TAKE YOU OUT TO THE CASTLE!
SHERARD LAUGHED AWAY THE VAGUE FEARS OF HIS HOST AND THEY ALL MOTORED OUT TO GRUMLEY'S DEERE CASTLE!
AT MIDNIGHT A WOMAN ROAMS THROUGH THE CASTLE, THEY SAY! SHE HAS A SWORD IN HER BACK-- AND HER HEAD HAS BEEN CUT OFF! QUITE A SPOOK, EH?
TERRIFIC! A MOVIE OF ME SPENDING A NIGHT ALONE THERE WILL BE TERRIFIC!
MARVELOUS! IT'LL MAKE A MARVELOUS SHOW! WHAT'S THE LEGEND BEHIND IT ALL?
WELL--THERE YOU ARE! THE VILLAGERS CALL IT THE "HOME OF THE HEADLESS HORROR!"
AND SO IT CAME ABOUT...
THERE! THE CAMERA'S WILL TAKE PICTURES IN THE DARK WITH THAT INFRA-RED FILM. NOW LET ME AT THAT CASTLE'S HEADLESS HORROR!

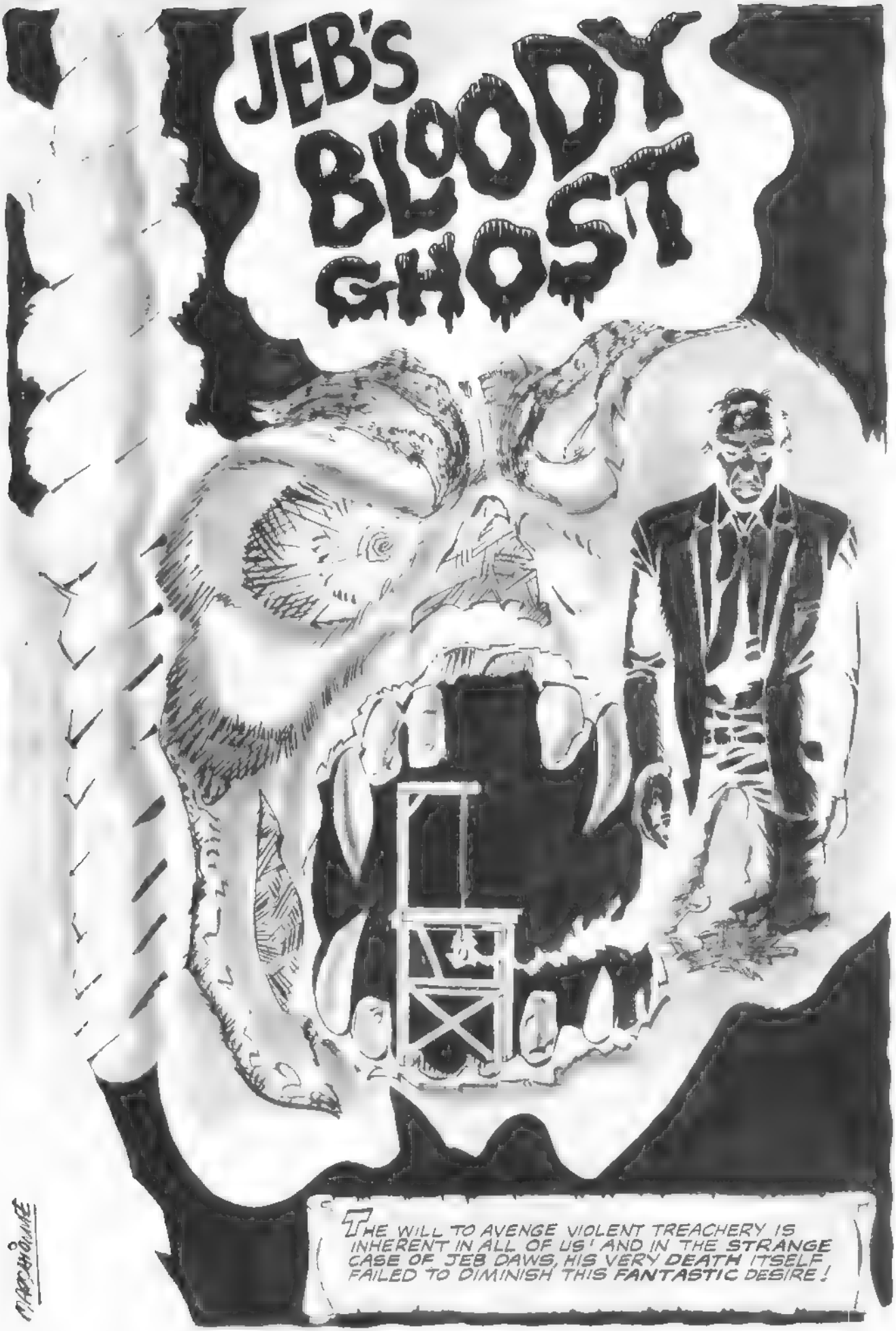
THEY DROVE TO THE LONELY CASTLE. SHERARD SET UP THE CAMERA'S IN THE WEAPONS ROOM, THE ROOM WHERE THE HEADLESS HORROR WAS ALLEGED TO WALK...
THERE-- I'M READY. COME MIDNIGHT--- AND A TOUCH OF THIS BUTTON ON THE HAND MIKE AND THESE CAMERAS TAKE PICTURES IN THE DARKNESS!
QUITE AN INTRICATE BUSINESS, THIS TRAPPING A GHOST FOR TELEVISION...
NOW YOU TWO JUST GO HOME, AND COME BACK FOR ME IN THE MORNING!
LOOK HERE, OLD MAN, I STILL FEEL UNEASY!
NOW, DARLING, YOU KNOW THIS GHOST BUSINESS IS SHEER POPPYCOCK!
SO VERN SHERARD WAS LEFT ALONE IN THE HAUNT OF THE HEADLESS HORROR...
NOW I WAIT TILL MIDNIGHT. HUM-- IT'S IMPOSSIBLE-- BUT I FEEL AS IF I'D BEEN HERE BEFORE!
THE MYSTERIOUS HOUR OF MIDNIGHT CAME AND THEN, IN THE BEDROOM OF SIR AND LADY STANDISH...
HE SCREAMED! I HEARD HIM SCREAM-- GASP
EDWARD-- YAWN WHAT IS IT?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS, BUT I HEARD SHERARD SCREAM! I'VE GOT TO GO TO HIM AT ONCE!
DARLING, ARE YOU MAD?
BUT STANDISH WAS DETERMINED. HE QUICKLY SET OUT FOR DEERE CASTLE.
I'M SORRY, DARLING, BUT I JUST HAD TO GO NOW!

THE CAR SHRIEKED TO A HALT BEFORE THE DARK AND SILENT CASTLE. CHILLED BY A FEAR HE COULD NOT NAME, SIR STANDISH DASHED INSIDE, CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY HIS WIFE...
SHERARD! ARE YOU-- OHHHH!
EDWARD-- YAAAA!!
AHH! I KNEW IT! KNEW SOMETHING TERRIBLE WOULD HAPPEN IN THIS CURSED PLACE! MAYBE THE HOUSE IS HAUNTED-- MAYBE THE HEADLESS HORROR IS---
EDWARD, STOP! STOP! IT WAS JUST-- JUST A GHASTLY ACCIDENT-- NOTHING MORE!
AN ACCIDENT? THERE'S A WAY TO FIND OUT!--THE FILM IN THESE CAMERAS HAS BEEN USED! I'LL HAVE IT DEVELOPED-- THEN WE CAN SEE WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO THE POOR DEVIL!
EDWARD (SOB) TAKE ME HOME --(SOB)--TAKE ME HOME!
THE NEXT DAY...
THE FILM JUST ARRIVED, DARLING! THEY RUSHED THE DEVELOPMENT AS YOU ASKED!
WE'LL RUN IT IN THE STUDY!
WITH TREMBLING HANDS SIR STANDISH PLACED THE FILM IN A SOUND PROJECTOR, THEN...
GOOD EVENING, THIS IS VERN SHERARD IN A REAL HAUNTED ENGLISH CASTLE...

EDWARD! BEHIND HIM--LOOK-HE HASN'T SEEN IT ---OHHHH!
AT MIDNIGHT THE GHOST IS SUPPOSED TO APPEAR!
WELL, THE SPOOKING HOUR IS HERE! HA HA! NOW, LET'S SEE... I... AHHH!
EDWARD-ARE WE MAD--- IS IT POSSIBLE---
COME--COME TO ME! HERE--SEE? I OFFER YOU MY HEAD-- SURELY YOU WILL WANT TO TAKE IT WITH YOU TO YOUR GRAVE!
HER HEAD! SHE'S LIFTED IT-- THE BLOOD! KEEP AWAY... KEEP AWAY!
YOU HAVE COME! AT LAST, LONG LAST YOU HAVE COME! I...HAVE WAITED... SO LONG...
I MUST BE IM--IMAGINING THIS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN -- SOMEONE'S PLAYING A TRICK ON US!
ALL RIGHT---I WARNED YOU! KEEP AWAY--OR I'LL KILL YOU--- I'LL KILL YOU!
YAAA! IT GOES THROUGH YOU-- BUT DOES NOTHING!
HA HA HA! YOU HAVE ATTACKED ME WITH A SWORD BEFORE! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN? SEE--SEE--IT IS STILL IN MY BACK!

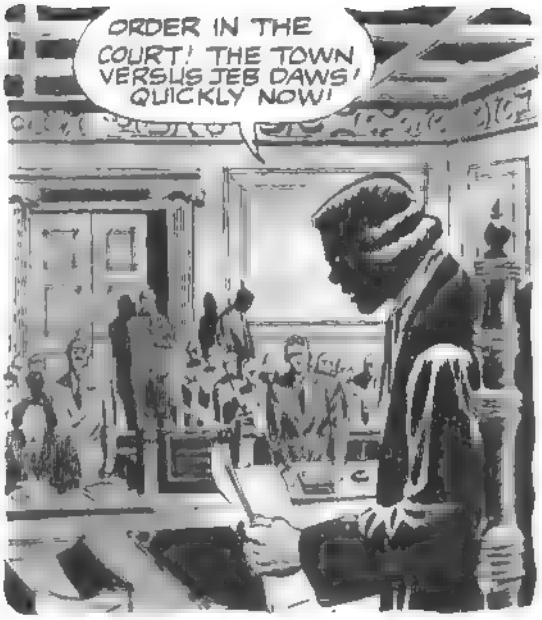
DARLING! GOOD LORD, SHE'S FAINTED!
AS ONCE I OFFERED BLOOD TO YOU -- NOW YOU MUST COME TO ME---
I'VE NOT DONE YOU ANY HARM-- -GASP- KEEP AWAY-- PLEASE! HA HA! THIS IS ALL A JOKE!!
IF YOU WILL NOT COME TO ME-- THEN I SHALL COME TO YOU--
I COME TO YOU--
DIE - HA HA HA -- DIE WITH STEEL AS ONCE YOU KILLED ME!! HA HA HA--
ARGHH-- HELP-- -COUGH- HELP---
MY REVENGE IS COMPLETE!! DEATH HAS MADE THE COMPLETE CIRCLE! NOW I CAN HAVE MY REST-- SO LONG OVERDUE!
LOOK, SHE'S SHE'S FADING AWAY--- DI-SOLVING INTO NOTHINGNESS!
OHHH-- EDWARD-- PLEASE-- DON'T LET HER--GET ME! OHHH--I CAN'T LOOK---

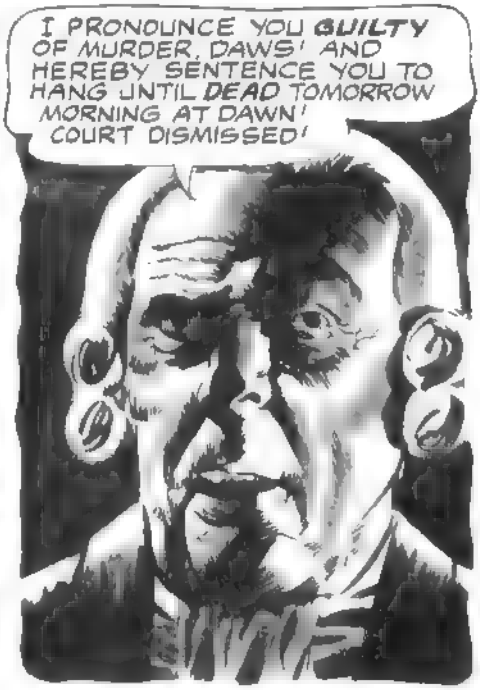
IT'S OVER! GHASTLY-- UNBELIEVABLE--
OH, EDWARD, IT--COULDN'T HAVE BEEN A TRICK-- COULD IT? IT WAS REAL! HOW HORRIBLE!
LETTER? I--YES, ALL RIGHT-- BRING IT HERE!
BEG PARDON, SIR! THIS LETTER--- IT JUST CAME FOR YOU BY SPECIAL POST!
DEAR SIR STANDISH: ACCORDING TO MY RECORDS, A MAN NAMED SHERARD LIVED IN GRUMLEY IN 1650! HE LEFT SUDDENLY FOR AMERICA IN 1680! IT IS SAID HE FLED BECAUSE HE HAD MURDERED LADY MARGARET DEERE WITH A SWORD. AS YOU MAY KNOW, IT IS THIS LADY DEERE WHO TO THIS DAY IS SAID TO HAUNT DEERE CASTLE!
IT'S FROM THE VILLAGE REGISTRAR. I ASKED HIM A WEEK AGO TO SEE IF HE HAD ANY RECORD OF SHERARD'S ANCESTORS HERE IN GRUMLEY AND... JUST READ THIS..
BUT I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS ANY CONNECTION!
EDWARD--YOU MEAN--THAT A WOMAN DEAD 300 YEARS TOOK REVENGE ON THE ANCESTOR OF THE MAN WHO KILLED HER! OH, EDWARD, IS IT POSSIBLE?
SO ENDED THE BRIGHT CAREER OF TY'S VERN SHERARD--A YOUNG MAN WHO SEARCHED FOR HIS ANCESTRAL HOME-- AND FOUND DEATH AT THE HANDS OF A HEADLESS HORROR WHO HAD WAITED FOR HIM FOR OVER 300 YEARS!
The End


JEB'S BLOODY GHOST
THE WILL TO AVENGE VIOLENT TREACHERY IS INHERENT IN ALL OF US! AND IN THE STRANGE CASE OF JEB DAWS, HIS VERY DEATH ITSELF FAILED TO DIMINISH THIS FANTASTIC DESIRE!

IN A SMALL ENGLISH HAMLET, A GROUP OF SOCIAL REFORMERS GATHER TO HEAR THEIR LEADER, JEB DAWS, SPEAK!
SLADE AND HIS HENCHMEN MUST BE DEFEATED AT ELECTION TIME! THEY NO LONGER REPRESENT THE PEOPLE!
HEAR, HEAR!
YEA!
THEY ARE TYRANTS WHO TRY TO CONTROL AND EXPLOIT THE PEOPLE!
YES!
WE WANT JEB DAWS!
YEA!
AND BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, DEAN SLADE AND HIS LIEUTENANTS BEECH AND GENDLY BECOME AWARE OF THE PUBLIC UNREST!
THIS JEB DAWS... WE HAVE TO GET RID OF HIM
YEAH... BUT HOW?
SHALL WE SAY--ER-- A FRAME UP?
OH, YES! WE'LL FRAME LOUDMOUTH DAWS FOR MURDER OF ONE OF OUR MEN! HEH-HEH!
OF COURSE! AND NO ONE WILL DOUBT THE MOTIVE! CHOOSE ONE OF OUR FLUNKIES, GENDLEY!
AND I'LL SEE THAT JEB DAWS' KNIFE IS "FOUND" BY THE BODY!
GOOD! HA! HA!
AND LATER THAT NIGHT, THE DIABOLICAL SCHEME IS EXECUTED!
SHAME WE HAD TO KILL YOU, HAWKINS! YOU SERVED US WELL! BUT GETTING DAWS BEHIND BARS IS MOST IMPORTANT, ISN'T IT? NOW FOR HIS KNIFE!

UNDER DANIEL SLADE'S IRON-FISTED REGIME, JUSTICE IS A MOCKERY, WITH THE ACTUAL MURDERER BEING THE PRESIDING JUDGE!

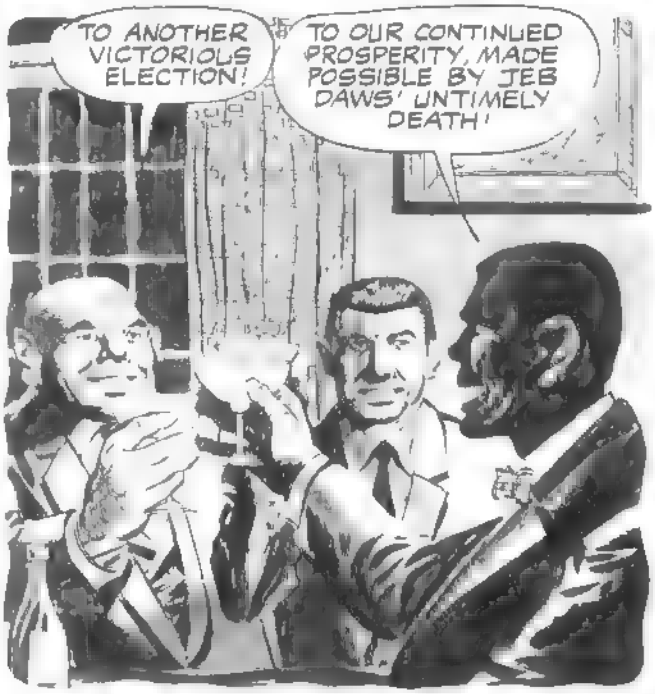




The FEARFUL MORNING DAWNS BRIGHT AND CLEAR! JEB DAWS' FOLLOWERS WITNESS THE MACABRE SPECTACLE IN SILENCE...

AND AFTER JEB DAWS' SEEMINGLY HOLLOW WORDS, THE TRAP IS SPRUNG!

JEB'S DEATH IS SEEMINGLY PUNCTUATED BY A HEAVY FOG THAT ENVELOPS THE TOWN! BUT BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, THREE MEN GLEEFULLY TOAST THEIR TREACHERY!

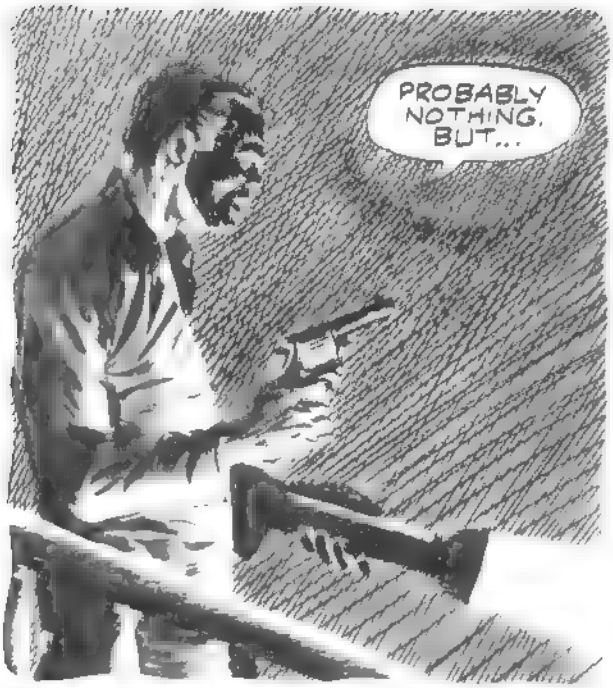


BUT LATER THAT NIGHT, A WIERD, CHILLING SIGHT IS OBSERVED IN THE TOWN SQUARE!

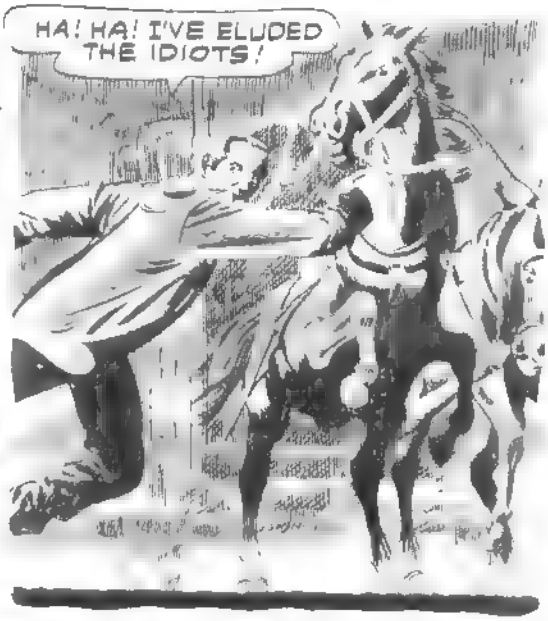
THE NEWS SPREADS RAPIDLY THROUGH THE FOG-SHROUDED HAMLET!
JEB'S GONE ALL RIGHT!
GIVES ME TH CREEPS!
HE SAID HE'D RETURN! IS IT POSSIBLE?
OF COURSE IT AIN'T... BUT I WONDER...
And AS THE PANIC MOUNTS, THREE MEN ANXIOUSLY MEET!
IT'S A BAD SITUATION! COULD DAWS ACTUALLY...? HE COULDN'T HAVE!
...OR COULD HE...?
And LATER THAT NIGHT THE ANSWER IS SUPPLIED!
AIIIIEEE! JEB'S GHOST!
SLADE AND HIS GANG MUST BE DEALT WITH! THEY ARE PIRATES!
AS THE GHASTLY NEWS OF THE VISION CIRCULATES, HYSTERIA GRIPS THE FEARFUL CITIZENS!
I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES! JEB'S GHOST!
HE'S RETURNED!

Their FEAR TAKING THE FORM OF VIOLENT RETRIBUTION FOR THEIR LEADER'S DEATH, THE MOB VENTS ITS ANGER ON CLARK GENDLEY HIMSELF!

AIEEE!!
GET HIM!
NO! NOO-O! I DIDN'T!
REVENGE FOR JEB!
YOU DIED AS YOU LIVED GENDLEY... BRUTALLY
I'M WORRIED, SLADE! YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO GENDLY! THE MOB IS OUT OF HAND!
GO HOME AND BOLT YOUR DOOR!
BUT THE SAVAGE MURDER HAS NO APPARENT EFFECT UPON THE CLINGING FOG OR THE EERIE LIGHT SERVING AS A GRIM REMINDER THAT JEB DAWS' GHOST STILL WALKS.
THREE DAYS OF THIS FOG! AND THAT LIGHT!
AND AN EMPTY NOOSE! GUESS JEB SN'T SATISFIED YET
THAT NIGHT IN JUDGE BEECH'S BEDROOM!
THAT NOISE... IT CAME FROM DOWNSTAIRS.



THE DIABOLICAL BEECH SUCCESSFULLY EVADES THE SEETHING HORDE, BUT HIS WILD FLIGHT AROUSES A TEAM OF NEARBY BREWERY HORSES...



THE NEXT EVENING, THE SOLE REMAINING PERPETRATOR OF JEB DAW'S DEATH WAITS IN MOUNTING HORROR!
I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT! DRAT THIS FOG... AND THAT BEAM OF LIGHT ON THE SCAFFOLD!
HUH! IT'S YOU! HOW DID...
RETRIBUTION, SLADE: I WARNED YOU BEFORE YOU HANGED ME
AIEEE! DON'T COME NEAR ME!
THE LOGS! THEY GO RIGHT THROUGH HIM! AND THE HOUSE! IT'S BURNING!
HA! HA! HA!
THE PEOPLE WHO GATHER TO WATCH SLADE'S HOME CONSUMED IN THE BLAZING FIRE ARE UNAWARE OF THE HATED POLITICIANS... THE STRUGGLE THAT LED TO IT! BUT, SUDDENLY...
THERE GOES SLADE'S PLACE! AND LOOK! THE FOG!
IT'S LIFTING AT LAST!
SLADE IS DEAD! BURNED TO DEATH IN THE FIRE! QUICK, TO THE SCAFFOLD!
SLADE IS DEAD! TO THE SQUARE!
THE TOWNSFOLK REACH THE SCAFFOLD TO SEE FANTASTIC SIGHTS... THAT ASSURES THEM THAT THEIR DEAD LEADER'S SOUL IS FINALLY AT PEACE
IT'S JEB!
THE END

'THE CREATURES
FROM THE PLANET VENUS--- MILLIONS OF MILES OUT IN SPACE— CAME STRANGE CREATURES.... THEY CAME WITH A MISSION IN MIND---A MISSION TO COLLECT SPECIMENS OF ALL FORMS OF LIFE... INCLUDING AN EARTHMAN AND EARTHWOMAN!

WHILE THE BUSY, BUSTLING CROWDS OF NEW YORK GO ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS--A STRANGE BEAM OF LIGHT SINGLES OUT THE FIGURE OF JERRY DRAGO....
EEIAH!
GOOD HEAVENS— WHAT'S THAT?
CIGAR

I .CAN'T BREATHE! FEEL LIKE I M....FLOAT.NG IN.... AIR!! I...OH-H-H!

AND A SHORT TIME LATER, THE STRANGE RAY FOCUSES ON JILL JOHNSON...
HELP! HELP! I'M BEING LIFTED INTO THE AIR! MY HEAD.... DIZZY! I....

WHEN JERRY DRAGO OPENS HIS EYES—HE FINDS HIMSELF FACING A CREATURE FROM SOME HORRIBLE DREAM...
WHERE AM I? W-WHAT HAPPENED? I MUST BE HAVING A NIGHTMARE!
NO, MY FRIEND, YOU ARE NOT HAVING A NIGHTMARE... BUT YOU WILL DISCOVER SOON ENOUGH WHAT HAPPENED!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT! WHAT ARE YOU? AND HOW DO YOU UNDER-STAND MY LANGUAGE?
I AM FROM THE PLANET VENUS.... AND I AM TAKING YOU BACK WITH ME! WE PLAN TO STUDY YOU! BUT YOU ONLY THINK YOU HEAR MY VOICE! I AM TRANS-MITTING THOUGHT WAVES!

EARTH PEOPLE ARE VERY SHORT LIVED! I DEDUCE THAT FROM YOUR MEMORY CELLS. EARTH PEOPLE VERY SELDOM LIVE OVER A HUNDRED YEARS!
HOW LONG DO YOU EXPECT A GUY TO LIVE— FOREVER?

WE LIVE THOUSANDS OF YEARS! COME WITH ME — I MUST MAKE ARRANGEMENTS SO THAT YOU WILL NEVER DIE!
LEAD ON, I'M JUST THE GUY YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!

WHO IS THIS? WHY, SHE'S AN EARTHWOMAN!! WHERE DID SHE COME FROM?
WE HAD TO HAVE TWO OF YOU! I'LL KILL ALL THE GERM LIFE IN HER BODY AS WELL AS YOURS, AND THAT WAY I WILL NOT ONLY RADIO-ACTIVATE YOUR LIFE-RATE INDEFINITELY!

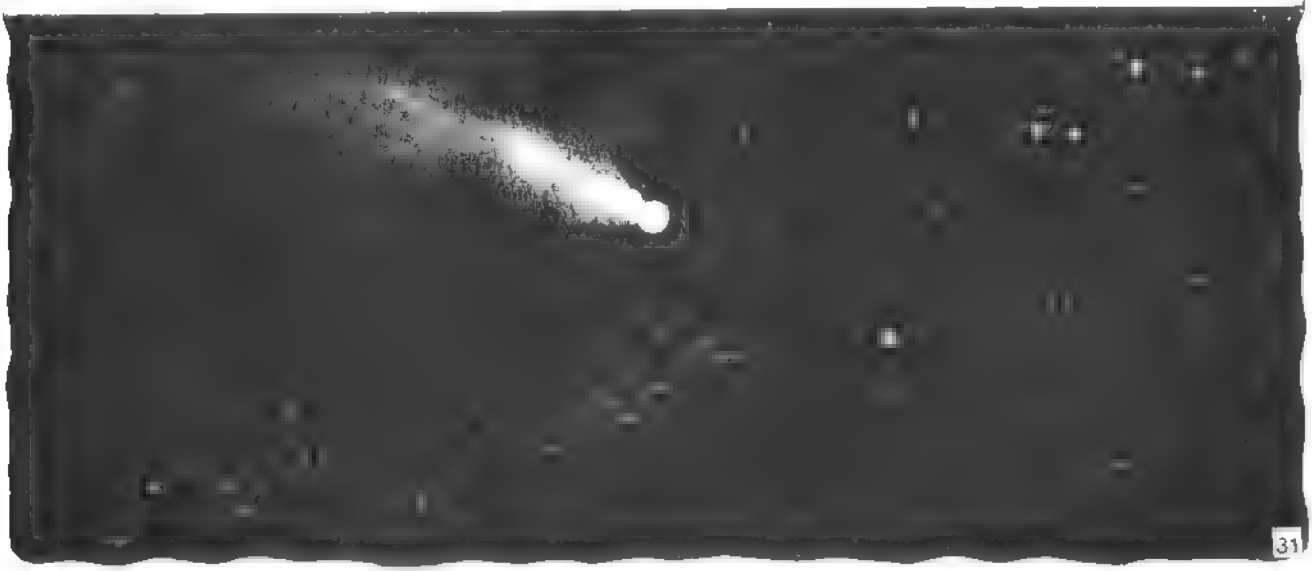
AS THE CREATURE FROM THE PLANET VENUS BEGINS HIS TASK, JERRY DRAGO AND JILL JOHNSON DOZE OFF INTO THE REALM OF DREAMS. LATER, AS THEY AWAKE, THEY FIND THEMSELVES IN A STRANGE CELL...
HEY! WAKE UP! COME ON....SNAP OUT OF IT!
OHHH — HOW DID I GET IN HERE?
DOCTOR, IT'S VERY TRYING TO BE COOPED UP IN THIS GLASS CAGE OF YOURS....CAN'T YOU GIVE US SOME SORT OF WORK TO KEEP BUSY?
HMMM — WHY NOT? YOU CANNOT HARM ANYTHING — AND I NEED HELP!

LATER, IN THE SPACESHIP'S ENGINE ROOM...
NOW THAT WE'RE OUT OF THE CAGE, WE CAN FIND A WAY TO ESCAPE!
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, JERRY. I CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS!

BUT WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT TILL THE SPACE SHIP LANDS! WE MUSTN'T DO ANYTHING FOOLISH OR THEY'LL LOCK US UP AGAIN!
ALL RIGHT — IF YOU SAY SO, JERRY! BUT THAT HORRIBLE MONSTER FRIGHTENS THE WITS OUT OF ME!

WEEKS LATER, AFTER THEY LAND ON VENUS, JERRY AND JILL ARE GIVEN THEIR FREEDOM...
JERRY! WHAT ABOUT THAT IDEA YOU HAD FOR ESCAPING?
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT, JILL....THE TIME IS RIPE — NOW HERE'S WHAT WE'LL DO...
BUT WHAT ABOUT FOOD SUPPLY?
WE'LL TAKE SOME STORAGE TINS FROM THE SUPPLY ROOM AND HIDE THEM IN THE SHIP WE'LL ESCAPE IN!
DAY AFTER DAY— WEEK AFTER WEEK ARE SPENT IN SECRET, WHILE JERRY TRIES TO LEARN THE MECHANICS OF THE ROCKET SHIP.
BOY! THIS ATOMIC MOTOR WAS REALLY TOUGH TO FIGURE OUT! BUT I MADE IT!
AND LATER ..
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE EARTH! I'VE JUST GOT TO!
SHHH. NOT SO LOUD— I DON'T WANT TO BE DISCOVERED WHEN WE'VE GOTTEN THIS FAR!
WE'LL ESCAPE FIRST CHANCE WE GET! AND IT WON'T BE TOO LONG NOW—YOU'LL SEE!

DEEP INTO SPACE GOES THE SPEEDY ATOM-POWERED SHIP, STRAIGHT ON TS COURSE TOWARD THE THIRD PLANET OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM— *EARTH....*



WHEN THE SHIP FINALLY REACHES EARTH AND LANDS IN THE U.S.A., JERRY AND JILL FIND THEMSELVES LAUGHED AT BY THE DISBELIEVING CROWD....

...AND THESE PEOPLE LIVE TO BE TEN THOUSAND YEARS OLD!.

HA! HA! WHAT IS THIS, A PUBLICITY STUNT FOR SOME MOVIE ?

THEY'RE LAUGHING... THEY DON'T BELIEVE US! WE MUST CONVINCE THEM!!

BUT HOW?... WAIT! LET'S GO SEE DR. BEDOLL, HE'LL BELIEVE US!!

LATER--IN THE STUDY OF DR. BEDOLL, THE WORLD'S GREATEST ASTRONOMER...

BUT, DOCTOR— YOU *MUST* BELIEVE US!— THIS CLOTHING— THE SHIP--*PROVE* WE WERE THERE!

I'VE BEEN STUDYING THE PLANETS FOR YEARS! I'M AFRAID I CAN'T BELIEVE YOUR STORY!

UNABLE TO CONVINCE ANYONE OF THEIR EXPERIENCES—JERRY AND JILL RETURN TO THE PLACE THEY LANDED, ONLY TO FIND...

GONE! THE SHIP IS GONE!

I'M ALL MIXED UP— IS THIS ALL A *BAD DREAM!*

IF IT WAS, THEN YOU'RE THE ONLY PART OF THAT DREAM THAT WAS REAL!

NO—I WAS WRONG! THOSE MONSTERS WERE VERY REAL— AND THAT ADVANCED SCIENCE OF THEIRS COULD HELP EARTH A LOT!

DESPITE RIDICULE AND DISBELIEF— JERRY SET ABOUT BUILDING A COPY OF THE ROCKET SHIP FROM THE PLANS STOLEN FROM THE PLANET VENUS... A BELIEVING FINANCIER BACKS JERRY FINANCIALLY ON HIS PROJECT....

WHEN WE RETURN WITH THE SECRET OF PERPETUAL LIFE, FROM VENUS PEOPLE, PEOPLE WILL *HAVE* TO BELIEVE US!

THE END

THINGS OF HORROR

"TREE MEN! GNARLED FACES, BRANCHY ARMS!" SUPERSTITIOUS NATIVE BUNK, THOUGHT WILL GORDON, THE JUNGLE-HUNTER....UNTIL, WITH HIS OWN EYES BULGING OUT IN TERROR, HE SAW THEM!

FOR YEARS THE LOCAL YOKELS HAVE TOSSED THIS LEGEND OF THE VALLEY OF MEN THAT LOOK LIKE TREES, HUH? I THINK IT'S PURE BUNK! HOWEVER... LET'S SEE WHAT THIS IS THAT YOU HAVE TO SHOW ME! WHERE IS IT?

AT MY QUARTERS!

A HALF HOUR LATER AT GLORIA JOHNSON'S QUARTERS...

GOOD GRIEF.

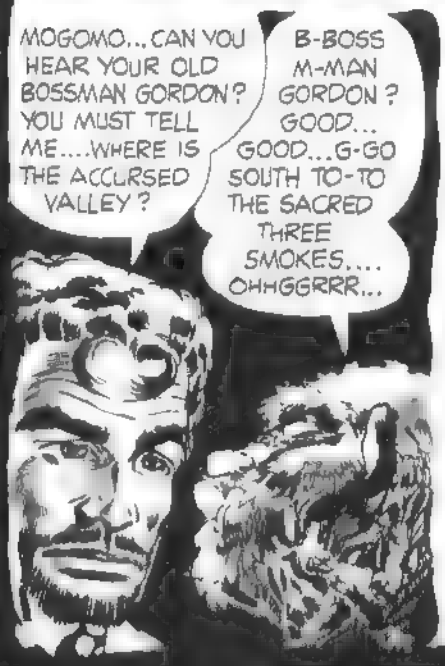
NOW DO YOU BELIEVE ME?

OF COURSE....IT'S JUST THAT....WELL, THE CREATURE LYING THERE TOOK ME BY SURPRISE! AND....HE LOOKS SO FAMILIAR!
HE SHOULD! HE'S MOGOMO! THE GUIDE YOU HIRED OUT TO FATHER WHEN HE STARTED ON HIS EXPEDITION TO FIND THE TREE MEN!

WHAT?
IT'S TRUE! THIS S WHAT MOGOMO BROUGHT BACK TO ME FROM THE VALLEY! DAD'S GUNSTOCK. THERE'S A MESSAGE INSCRIBED ON IT....READ IT!

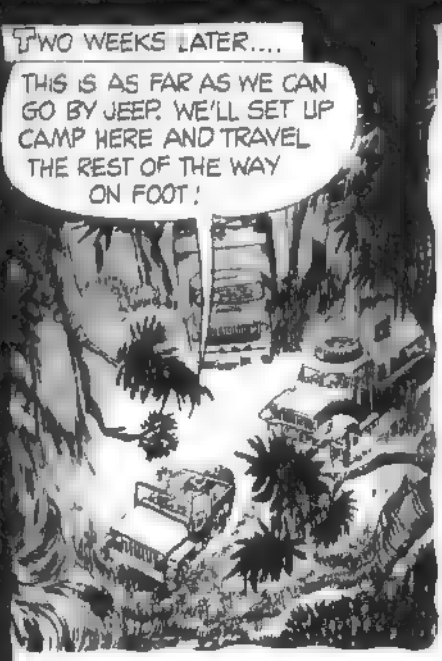
IT SAYS, "I HAVE FOUND THE ACCURSED VALLEY AND DOOMED MYSELF! SIGNED, GREG JOHNSON, JUNE 4TH, 1971....WHY, IT'S DATED TWO WEEKS AGO!
THAT'S WHY I KNOW DAD'S STILL ALIVE!

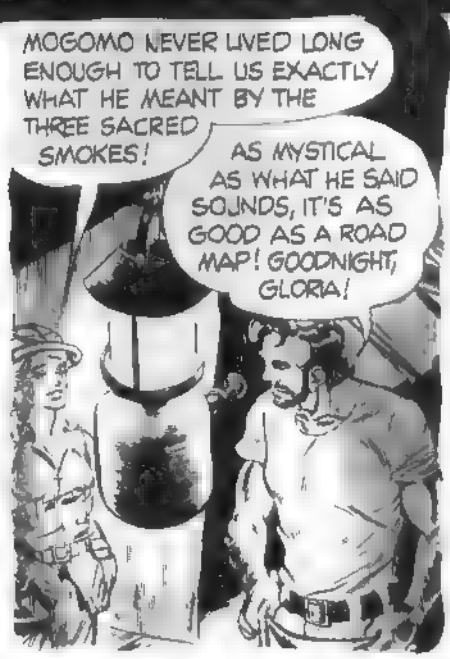
FORGIVE ME FOR NOT BELIEVING AT FIRST, GLORIA!
I DON'T BLAME YOU! I WOULDN'T HAVE EITHER IF MOGOMO HERE HAD NOT ESCAPED THEM! HE TOLD ME THAT WOLOMB, THE HIGH PRIEST OF THE TREE-MEN, USED VOODOO TO MAKE HIM ONE OF THEM.


MOGOMO...CAN YOU HEAR YOUR OLD BOSSMAN GORDON? YOU MUST TELL ME....WHERE IS THE ACCURSED VALLEY?
B-BOSS M-MAN GORDON? GOOD... GOOD...G-GO SOUTH TO-TO THE SACRED THREE SMOKES.... OHHGGRRR...

HE'S DEAD!

WILL YOU HELP ME LOOK FOR DAD?
YES!


TWO WEEKS LATER....
THIS IS AS FAR AS WE CAN GO BY JEEP. WE'LL SET UP CAMP HERE AND TRAVEL THE REST OF THE WAY ON FOOT!


MOGOMO NEVER LIVED LONG ENOUGH TO TELL US EXACTLY WHAT HE MEANT BY THE THREE SACRED SMOKES!
AS MYSTICAL AS WHAT HE SAID SOUNDS, IT'S AS GOOD AS A ROAD MAP! GOODNIGHT, GLORIA!

EEEEIYAH-H-H
GLORIA!

GOOD HEAVENS! THE TREE MEN!

THANK GOODNESS THESE GUYS CAN BE HURT BY BULLETS!

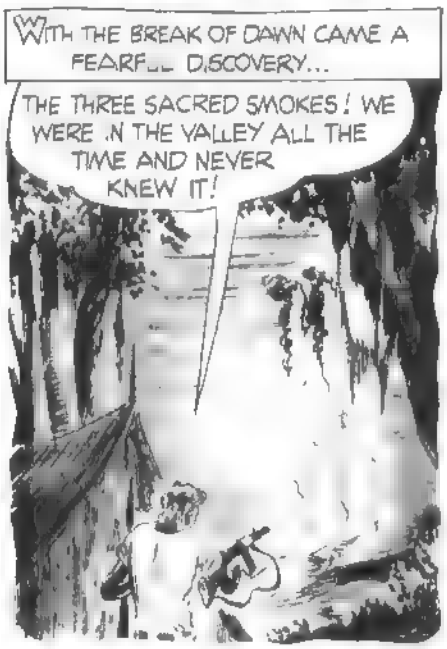
SUDDENLY A TREE-LIKE ARM DANCES AROUND GORDON'S NECK....
ULP! ONE OF 'EM'S BEHIND ME...

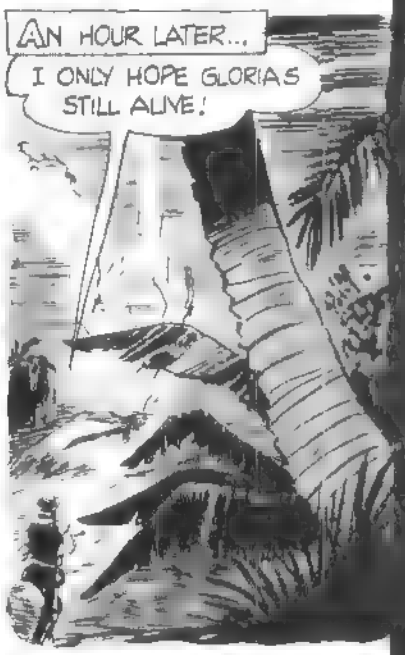
UGH! FEELS LIKE SOME SLIMY SNAKE!

THE CIGARETTE LIGHTER FELL OUT OF MY POCKET AND LIGHTED UP: THIS MONSTER LOOKS HYPNOTIZED BY THE FLAMES!

GORDON PICKED UP THE FLAMING CIGARETTE LIGHTER AND...
LOOK AT HIM RUN. I WONDER IF... GOOD GRIEF! I FORGOT ABOUT GLORIA!

GLORIA! SHE'S GONE! THOSE GHASTLY MEN TOOK HER....AND ALL MY PORTERS HAVE RUN AWAY.


WITH THE BREAK OF DAWN CAME A FEARFUL DISCOVERY...
THE THREE SACRED SMOKES! WE WERE IN THE VALLEY ALL THE TIME AND NEVER KNEW IT!


AN HOUR LATER...
I ONLY HOPE GLORIA'S STILL ALIVE!

IT'S GLORIA. A-AND THAT MUST BE WOLOMBI, THE HIGH PRIEST MOGOMO SPOKE OF..

HORRIFIED, GORDON WATCHES AS A LIVING TREE MAN IS HURLED INTO THE SACRED FLAMES IN PRIMITIVE SACRIFICIAL CREMATION!
WOW!....AND NOW THEY'RE DRAGGING GLORIA TO THE FIRE!

JUST THEN A DRUM BEATS OUT....
THOSE DRUMS! LIKE SOME SORT OF SIGNAL....THEY'RE LEAVING THE FLAME POOLS AND TAKING GLORIA WITH THEM!
GORDON ARRIVED AT THE VILLAGE COMPOUND, AND HE SAW....
GOOD GRIEF! THIS LOOKS LIKE THE GARDEN OF SOME FIENDISH DEVIL....
SUDDENLY...
THANK HEAVENS YOU CAME, GORDON!
YAAHHH!
JOHNSON. JOHNSON... YOU...YOU'RE...
YES, GORDON...WOLOMBI'S TERRIBLE MAGIC CHANGED ME INTO ONE OF THEM! IT'S TOO LATE FOR ME....I'M DOOMED! BUT YOU CAN SAVE GLORIA! YOU MUST!
WOLOMBI IS TO PERFORM HIS VOODOO ON GLORIA TODAY...THAT'S WHY YOU MUST SAVE HER, GORDON!
BUT HOW? I CAN'T FIGHT TWO THOUSAND TREES!
I KNOW...BUT I CAN! THESE TREE MEN FEAR FIRE! GIVE ME MATCHES, GORDON! HURRY, MAN!
NO WONDER THAT TREE MAN FLED WHEN MY LIGHTER ACCIDENTLY LIT UP. HERE, TAKE IT!
YES! WE ARE VEGETABLE, THEREFORE COMBUSTIBLE! NOW GO TO THE DAIS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COMPOUND WHERE WOLOMBI WILL ANOINT GLORIA FOR THE RITUAL! WAIT THERE AND BE READY!
WHATEVER YOU SAY, JOHNSON!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...
I MADE IT! EVIDENTLY THESE CREATURES CAN'T HEAR TOO WELL....THERE GO THOSE DRUMS AGAIN!
THEY'VE GOT HER TIED SPREAD EAGLE AND WOLOMBI'S GOING TO POUR THAT VOODOO GOO ON HER!
THROWING AWAY ALL CAUTION, GORDON RACED TOWARD THE GIRL...
I WON'T LET THOSE FIENDS TOUCH HER!
GORDON!
AS SOON AS YOU'RE FREE STAY BEHIND ME!
HURRY! THEY'RE FORMING A CIRCLE AROUND US!
HURRY! SHOOT THEM, GORDON... SHOOT THEM!
I CAN'T! THE GUN'S EMPTY!
OH, GORDON... THEY'RE GOING TO IMPALE US ON THOSE SPEARS!
DIRTY DEMONS... STOP....STOP!
THEY STOPPED! THEY'RE RUNNING!
THEY'RE AFRAID OF SOMETHING... LOOK!

AND EVEN AS THE ECHO OF GORDON'S CURSES DIE AWAY, THE HIGH PRIEST WOLOMBI...MEETS HIS DOOM....AND MR. JOHNSON PITCHES INTO THE FIRE POOLS WITH HIM IN SEARCH OF ETERNAL PEACE...

GORDON PICKED GLORIA UP AND STARTED OFF ON THE LONG TREK BACK TO THE COAST....

VAMPIRE
MY NAME IS WALTER FARNO. AS A WRITER OF SOME RENOWN, I AM ALSO AN INTENSE TRAVELER COME WITH ME AS I TELL YOU MY STORY.. I FIRST ARRIVED AT BELNOW IN THE PYRENEES DURING THE SPRING MONTHS. THE TOWN MAYOR GREETED ME WITH GUSTO...
OSCAR FRAGA
AH, MONSIEUR FARNO! WELCOME! WELCOME TO OUR SMALL VILLAGE. I HOPE YOU WILL FIND YOUR STAY AN ENJOYABLE ONE!
I'M SURE I WILL, MONSIEUR MAYOR!
HERE YOU! CAREFUL WITH THAT BOX!
IT IS YOURS, MONSIEUR!?
CRASH

UH...YES! YOU SEE SIR, I'M NOT ONLY HERE ON A VACATION, BUT ALSO TO... UH... COLLECT THINGS! I AM AN AVID COLLECTOR! THAT BOX HOLDS MY... COLLECTION!
SO! BIEN! BELNOW HAS EVERYTHING AT YOUR DISPOSAL! NOW FOLLOW ME, MONSIEUR!
BELNOW GREETED ME WITH OPEN ARMS! IT WASN'T OFTEN THAT A FAMOUS WRITER CAME TO VISIT THEM. BUT MY PURPOSE WAS NOT FOR A REST. YOU SEE, I HAD ONLY TOLD THE MAYOR HALF THE TRUTH. THAT NIGHT AT MY INN, I MET THE VILLAGERS...
YOUNG PAUL IS A HERCULES, IS HE NOT, MONSIEUR?
THAT HE IS, MONSIEUR!
THAT IS ENOUGH FOR TONIGHT, MY FRIENDS! I MUST GO BACK TO MY BLACKSMITH'S SHOP TO WORK! I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW!
GOOD NIGHT, PAUL!
OH, PAUL! MAY I WALK ALONG WITH YOU? I'D LIKE A BIT OF FRESH AIR!
COME ALONG, MONSIEUR FARNO! IT IS A PRIVELEGE!
WE WALKED ALONG TOGETHER...THEN WHEN THE FOREST BECAME DENSE...AND THE FULL MOON REACHED ITS PEAK... I STOPPED...
WHY DO YOU STOP, MONSIEUR? ARE YOU TIRED?
NO, PAUL, NOT TIRED! JUST HUNGRY!
THEN... OF COURSE... I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF! THERE WAS NO USE DENYING THE INEVITABLE...
MONSIEUR... Y...YOU'RE CH... CHANGING! LET ME OUT OF HERE!
I CAN'T, PAUL! TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I'M FAMISHED!

HE MADE A FUTILE ATTEMPT TO ELUDE ME, BUT OF COURSE I WAS SO MUCH STRONGER! EVEN THIS GIANT COULDN'T STOP A VAMPIRE!
WHAT WARM SWEET BLOOD, PAUL! IT HEARTENS ME GREATLY! HA! HA!
AND THE NEXT AFTERNOON, I MET MAYOR LAFARGE IN THE INN-SALOON. HE WAS VERY DISTURBED
PAUL HAS BEEN KILLED, MONSIEUR FARNO! YOU WERE SEEN WITH HIM LAST
BUT I LEFT HIM IMMEDIATELY! HOW COULD SUCH A YOUNG GIANT BE OVERPOWERED AND KILLED?
THAT ALSO PUZZLES ME! AND THAT IS WHY YOU HAVE BEEN ABSOLVED OF ALL GUILT! FORGIVE ME, BUT WE ARE SUSPICIOUS OF EVERYONE! OH, I WANT YOU TO MEET MY DAUGHTER DESIRÉ!
CHARMED!
CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, VAMPIRES ARE LIKE ORDINARY PEOPLE... THAT IS TO SAY, THEY CAN GO OUT DURING THE DAYTIME BUT, OF COURSE, THEY DO HAVE ABNORMAL APPETITES, AND MINE WAS GROWING AGAIN!
IT'S A HORRIBLE THING, IS IT NOT, MONSIEUR? I KNEW PAUL VERY WELL! WHO WOULD DO SUCH A THING? HIS NECK WAS . IT WAS AWFUL!
PLEASE DON'T LET IT MAKE YOU OVERWROUGHT, DESIRÉ! A PRETTY GIRL LIKE YOU NEEDS LAUGHTER AND GAIETY!
IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED I CULTIVATED THIS WONDERFUL GIRL'S FRIENDSHIP PICNICS, DAYS ON THE BEACH, DANCING!
PARDON ME, OLD MAN! CAN YOU TELL ME WHERE THE ROAD TO BELNOW IS? I SEEM TO BE LOST!
IT'S NOT FAR FROM HERE! YOU JUS--

YOU GO THREE KILOMETERS TO RUE CHAMPLAIN. T-THEN...Y-YOU
YES? GO ON! SOMETHING WRONG, OLD MAN?
HA! HA! HA!
MONSIEUR! YOUR HANDS! YAAAAHHHH!
I WENT HOME, MY GAIETY BUBBLING OVER! THE NEXT MORNING OVER THE BREAKFAST TABLE
I JUST HEARD THE NEWS! THIS IS TERRIBLE! SOMETHING MUST BE DONE!
IT WAS MY GRANDPERE, I LOVED HIM, (SOB)!
HER GRANDFATHER? NO! IT COULD NOT BE I EXCLAIMED TO MYSELF, BUT THE FACTS WERE NOT TO BE DENIED! AND DESIRE COULD BE NEXT!
WHAT SHALL I DO? I DON'T WANT TO KILL DESIRE AS WELL! BUT MY OVERWHELMING DESIRE FOR BLOOD LEAVES ME WEAK!
NEVERTHELESS I HAD TO KEEP UP A PRETENSE. I ORGANIZED A SEARCH PARTY TO CAPTURE THE "MURDERER" AND THE POOR SIMPLE PEASANTS FELL ALONG WITH MY PLANS
YES! WE WILL HANG HIM ONCE WE CATCH HIM!
COME! WE MUST FIND THIS MAN! HE IS PROBABLY HIDING IN THE FOREST!
WE'LL SPLIT UP SO THAT WE MAY SEARCH MORE EASILY! I WILL TAKE THE CENTER ROUTE!
BIEN! WE WILL GO TO THE RIGHT AND LEFT OF YOU, MONSIEUR!

MOMENTS LATER...
LOOK THERE, MONSIEUR LE MAYOR, QUICKLY!
EH? WHERE?
OH...I'M AFRAID YOU MISSED HIM! HE WAS A LITTLE TOO FAST FOR YOU!
NONSENSE! I THINK I SEE SOMETHING...
AIEEEEEEEEEEE!
THE ONLY THING YOU SAW WAS YOUR IMAGINATION! NOW YOU SHALL REALLY SEE HIM! HA! HA!
I ATTENDED TO MY BUSINESS QUICKLY. THEN WITHOUT WASTING ANOTHER MOMENT, I TORE MY CLOTHES, SLASHED MY FACE, ...AND RAN BACK TOWARD THE MAIN BODY!
HELP! HELP! THE MAYOR! HE'S BEEN ATTACKED BY.. BY A VAMPIRE! I BARELY ESCAPED!
IT'S MONSIEUR FARNO! SACRE BLEU! WE MUST FIND THE CREATURE!
OH- WALTER- WALTER MY DARLING! YOU... YOU ARE ALIVE! I HEARD THE MENS SHOUTS! FATHER IS... IS... ?
YES, DEAR! THIS IS A HORRIBLE NIGHTMARE! WE MUST LEAVE THIS ACCURSED PLACE!
I SHOULD HAVE EXULTED IN MY CUNNING, BUT I WAS TORN BY THE BITTER ANGUISH OF MY EVIL! DESIRE NOW MEANT MORE TO ME THAN LIFE ITSELF! BUT SHE WAS THE ONLY ONE LEFT OF THAT PRECIOUS BLOOD!
I-I WOULD RATHER KILL MYSELF FIRST! I'LL FIND ANOTHER VICTIM! YES,... THAT'S IT!

THAT NIGHT I STALKED A PRETTY YOUNG THING WHO LIVED NEAR THE VILLAGE...TO BLOT OUT THE TEMPTATION OF KILLING DESIRÉ!
DON'T BE ALARMED, MY CHILD! IT WILL HURT BUT A MOMENT!
BUT THAT NIGHT I WAS CARELESS!
DID HE SEE ME? I WONDER!
WHAT IS IT YOU WANT?
BEG PARDON, SIR! BUT DESIRÉ LAFARGE IS DOWNSTAIRS. SHE GAVE ME THIS NOTE!
YOU MAY LEAVE! THANK YOU!
I SAW THE SHEER FRIGHT IN THE MORTALS EYES! THEN I KNEW I HAD BEEN FOUND OUT! I OPENED DESIRÉ'S NOTE!
Y-YES!
"DARLING, TAKE ME AWAY...I LOVE YOU! WE CAN BE MARRIED AND BE TOGETHER ALWAYS! I WAIT FOR YOUR ANSWER DESIRE."
SWEET DESIRÉ! I SHALL NEVER HARM YOU!
DESIRÉ...COME UP QUICKLY! I'VE CAUGHT THE VAMPIRE! DO EXACTLY AS I SAY TAKE A LARGE WOODEN STAKE FROM THE STOVE. YOU MUST KILL IT AS IT LIES IN ITS COFFIN!
THEN I KNEW WHAT TO DO! THE INN-PORTER WOULD BE SUMMONING HIS FELLOW BUMPKINS..AND MY SWEETHEART WAS DOWN BELOW SO I RUSHED TO THE WINDOW IMMEDIATELY.
Y-YES..
I EXERTED EVERY OUNCE OF MY HYPNOTIC POWER, FOR SHE WOULD NEVER DO IT OF HER OWN FREE WILL!.. REALIZING WHO AND WHAT I WAS BEFORE SHE COULD KILL ME. I HEARD THE DOOR OPEN..
QUICKLY! YOU MUST PLUNGE IT DOWN AS HARD AS YOU CAN!
YES..
DESIRÉ, I SHALL LOVE YOU ALWAYS!
SOMEDAY..SHE WILL UNDERSTAND... SOMEDAY...SHE WILL PITY ME!
THE END

SOMETHING'S BOUND TO GO WRONG WHEN AN AMATEUR TOYS WITH THE POWERS OF THE MASTER. IN THIS CASE, THE MASTER WAS A SORCERER WHO LEFT HIS YOUNG AND FOOLISH ASSISTANT ALONE--- WITH THESE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS...

NEVER KILL A CORPSE

GEORGE WATKINS IS BEYOND THE PALE NOW! DEAD! SO PERHAPS HE HAS FOUND THE EXPLANATIONS, BUT ALL THAT WE, THE LIVING, KNOW IS WHAT HAPPENED HERE ON THIS SPHERE! BEGINNING WITH THE NIGHT THAT WALTER HANLY FOUND WATKINS HOVERING MIDWAY BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH!

GEORGE! YOU FOOL! I'VE WARNED YOU! THE DEAD ARE NOT TO BE CALLED BACK LIGHTLY!

WAKE UP! YOU'RE TOYING WITH THINGS YOU DON'T EVEN BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND!

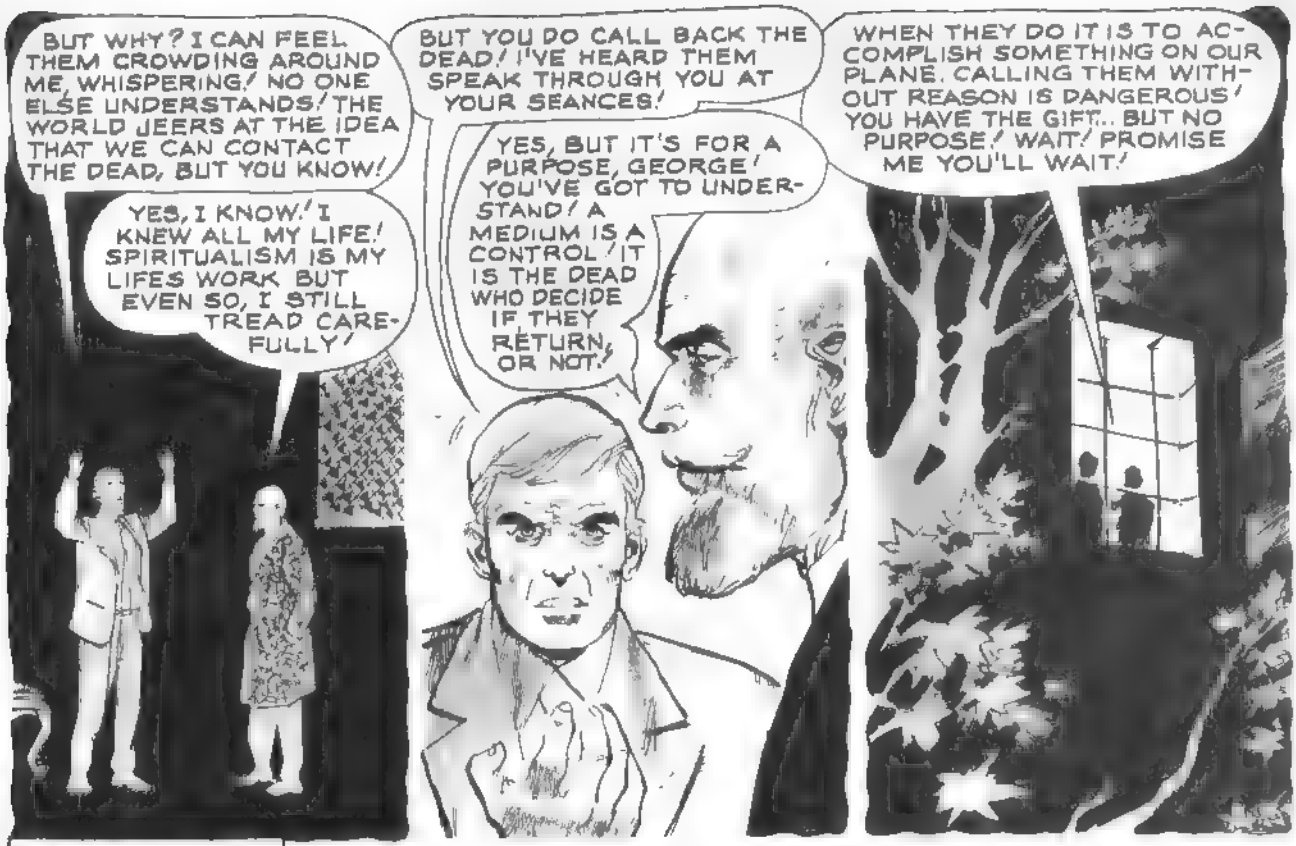
WHAT WHAT IS IT

OH, IT. IT'S YOU, MR. HANLY! I THOUGHT YOU HAD GONE OUT FOR THE EVENING! WHAT, WHAT HAPPENED?

SOMETHING THAT SHOULDN'T HAVE! YOU WERE IN A TRANCE! IN THE BEGINNING OF A TRANCE!

THEN I'VE DONE IT! THIS POWER THAT I FEEL IN ME IS REAL!

I'VE NEVER DOUBTED IT! THAT'S WHY I'VE TAUGHT YOU! SOMEDAY YOU'LL BE A GREAT MEDIUM, BUT YOU'RE NOT READY YET!


BUT WHY? I CAN FEEL THEM CROWDING AROUND ME, WHISPERING! NO ONE ELSE UNDERSTANDS! THE WORLD JEERS AT THE IDEA THAT WE CAN CONTACT THE DEAD, BUT YOU KNOW!
YES, I KNOW! I KNEW ALL MY LIFE! SPIRITUALISM IS MY LIFES WORK BUT EVEN SO, I STILL TREAD CAREFULLY!
BUT YOU DO CALL BACK THE DEAD! I'VE HEARD THEM SPEAK THROUGH YOU AT YOUR SEANCES!
YES, BUT IT'S FOR A PURPOSE, GEORGE! YOU'VE GOT TO UNDERSTAND! A MEDIUM IS A CONTROL! IT IS THE DEAD WHO DECIDE IF THEY RETURN, OR NOT!
WHEN THEY DO IT IS TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING ON OUR PLANE. CALLING THEM WITHOUT REASON IS DANGEROUS! YOU HAVE THE GIFT... BUT NO PURPOSE! WAIT! PROMISE ME YOU'LL WAIT!

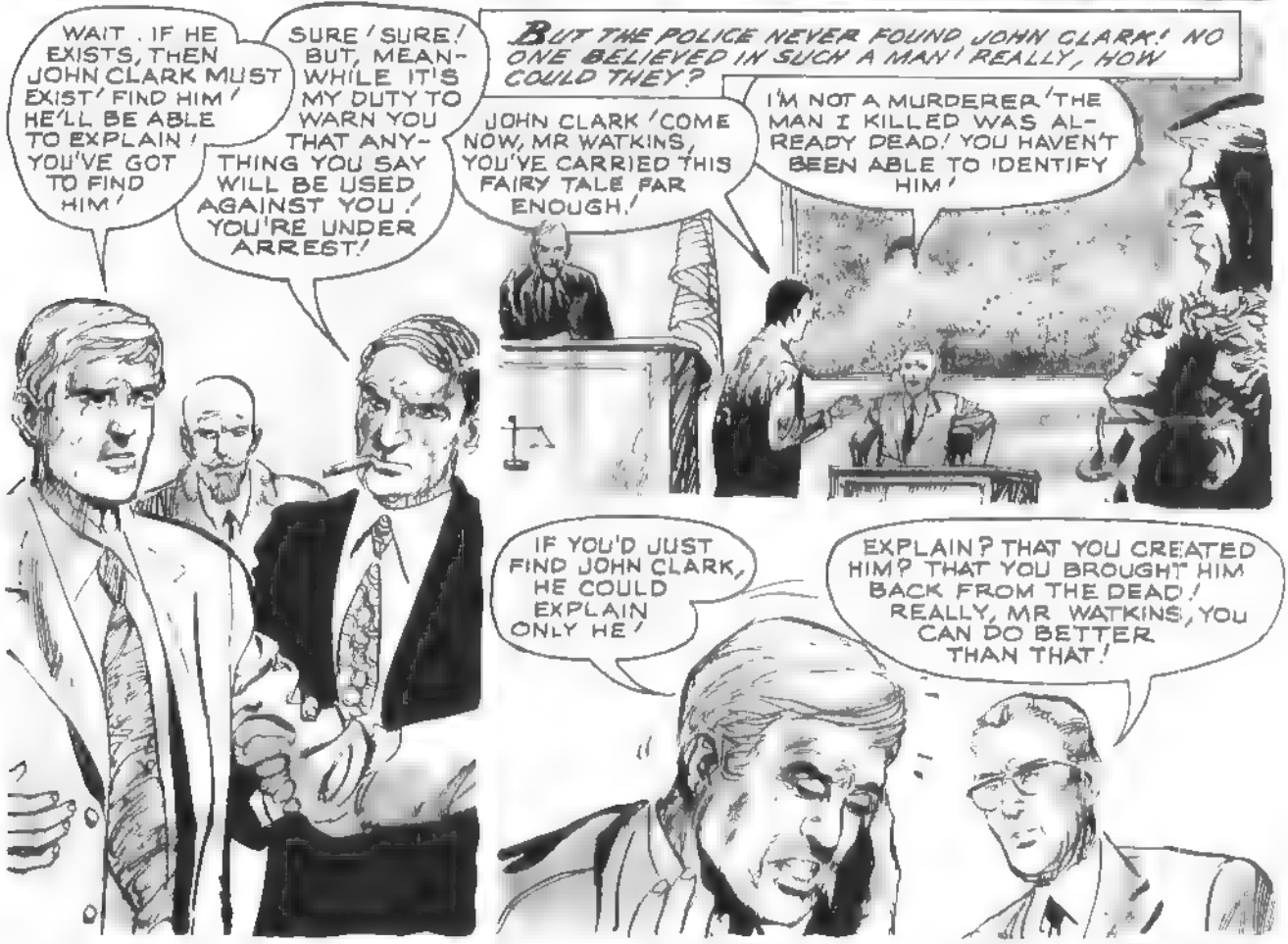
GEORGE WATKINS PROMISED! AFTER ALL, HE LIVED IN WALTER HANLY'S HOUSE, SUPPORTED BY WALTER HANLY'S BOUNTY! HE LISTENED, HE LEARNED! BUT HE WAS YOUNG AND, THE YOUNG ARE AMBITIOUS CURIOUS!

WATKINS WAS CURIOUS! FILLED WITH A POWER THAT EVEN HE DID NOT YET UNDERSTAND! AND THE NIGHT HAUNTED HIM WITH THINGS UNSEEN.
THIS ROOM, IT'S FILLED WITH THEM! ALL AROUND ME! THEY'RE HERE, WAITING TO BE CALLED! IF I ASK, THEY'LL COME!
NAMES! I MUST HAVE THE NAMES OF THOSE I CALL BACK! ANY NAMES! JOHN CLARK, DAVID BROWN. SOMEWHERE, SOMETIME, THERE WERE MEN WHO HAD THOSE NAMES!

DAVID BROWN JOHN CLARK COME! I AM WAITING
AFTERWARDS, GEORGE WATKINS SPOKE OF THE HEAVINESS WHICH BEGAN TO PRESS HIM DOWN! THEN NOTHING... A BLACK BOTTOM A DEEP DARK PIT... FROM WHICH HE EMERGED DAZED WEAK.
D-DOORBELL THAT'S THE DOORBELL!
TOC TOC
YES, WHAT IS IT?
YOU SENT FOR ME! MY NAME IS DAVID BROWN!
GEORGE HAD NOT BEEN FULLY AWARE UNTIL THEN! BUT NOW, SUDDENLY, THE AIR WAS COLD! SUDDENLY, HE WAS AFRAID! SUDDENLY THE MAN AT THE DOOR STEPPED INTO THE LIGHT!
BROWN? WHAT SORT OF A JOKE IS THIS? T-THERE'S N-NO DAVID BROWN! I JUST MADE UP THAT NAME!
I AM DAVID BROWN!
Y-YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND! GET OUT!
BUT THIS IS WHERE I BELONG! WITH YOU! YOU CALLED ME I CAME!
THEN GO BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM! T-THIS IS A DREAM! IN A MINUTE I'LL WAKE UP AND YOU'LL BE GONE!

PERHAPS GEORGE WATKINS WAS ILL! PERHAPS HE JUST IMAGINED WHAT HAPPENED THAT EVENING!
GO AWAY GO BACK.. YOU AREN'T REAL YOU CAN'T BE!
DEVIL! CORPSE WHATEVER YOU ARE! GO BACK! STAY AWAY...
DON'T COME NEAR ME!
NO! THE END WAS NOT IMAGINATION! THE KNIFE WAS THERE AND GEORGE WATKINS WAS AFRAID! HE WAS SITTING AT THE DESK SHIVERING WHEN WALTER HANLY RETURNED!
GEORGE! WHAT HAPPENED?
HAPPENED? I DON'T THINK I KNOW! I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
HE'S DEAD! BUT WHO IS HE?
NO ONE! A SHADOW! I CALLED HIM, HE SAID! SO HE CAME FROM THE DEAD! I KILLED A CORPSE! BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, DOES IT?
GEORGE TOLD HIS STORY! THEN FOR THE FIRST TIME HIS STORY WAS BELIEVED... FOR THE FIRST TIME...AND THE LAST!
BUT I CALLED TWO MEN, WHERE IS THE OTHER ONE, JOHN CLARK? MR. HANLY, YOU SAID THE DEAD RETURN FOR A PURPOSE! WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
I DON'T KNOW! I ONLY HOPE WE CAN MAKE THE POLICE BELIEVE YOUR STORY AS I DO! THAT'S ALL I CAN HOPE FOR!
HOPE? YES, THERE IS ALWAYS HOPE! BUT SOMETIMES, ONLY A FORLORN HOPE! FOR WATKINS THERE WAS NO HOPE. POLICEMEN DO NOT BELIEVE THE IMPOSSIBLE!
I'LL SAY ONE THING FOR YOU, WATKINS, YOUR STORY IS DIFFERENT, ANYWAY! VERY INTERESTING!
INTERESTING? IT'S TRUE! EVERY WORD!

MR HANLY, MAKE HIM UNDERSTAND THAT I'M NOT LYING!
HE WOULDN'T LISTEN, GEORGE! I WARNED YOU, THERE ARE THINGS NOT TO BE TAMPERED WITH!
I'LL BACK YOU UP IN COURT, GEORGE, BUT THEY WON'T LISTEN! I KNOW THEY WON'T!
THEY'LL LISTEN, HANLY! BUT I DOUBT IF YOU'LL BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN AWAY THAT CORPSE ON THE FLOOR! FOR A SPOOK, HE LOOKS PRETTY SOLID TO ME!


WAIT . IF HE EXISTS, THEN JOHN CLARK MUST EXIST! FIND HIM! HE'LL BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN! YOU'VE GOT TO FIND HIM!
SURE! SURE! BUT, MEANWHILE IT'S MY DUTY TO WARN YOU THAT ANYTHING YOU SAY WILL BE USED AGAINST YOU! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
BUT THE POLICE NEVER FOUND JOHN CLARK! NO ONE BELIEVED IN SUCH A MAN! REALLY, HOW COULD THEY?
JOHN CLARK! COME NOW, MR WATKINS, YOU'VE CARRIED THIS FAIRY TALE FAR ENOUGH!
I'M NOT A MURDERER! THE MAN I KILLED WAS ALREADY DEAD! YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO IDENTIFY HIM!
IF YOU'D JUST FIND JOHN CLARK, HE COULD EXPLAIN ONLY HE!
EXPLAIN? THAT YOU CREATED HIM? THAT YOU BROUGHT HIM BACK FROM THE DEAD! REALLY, MR WATKINS, YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT!

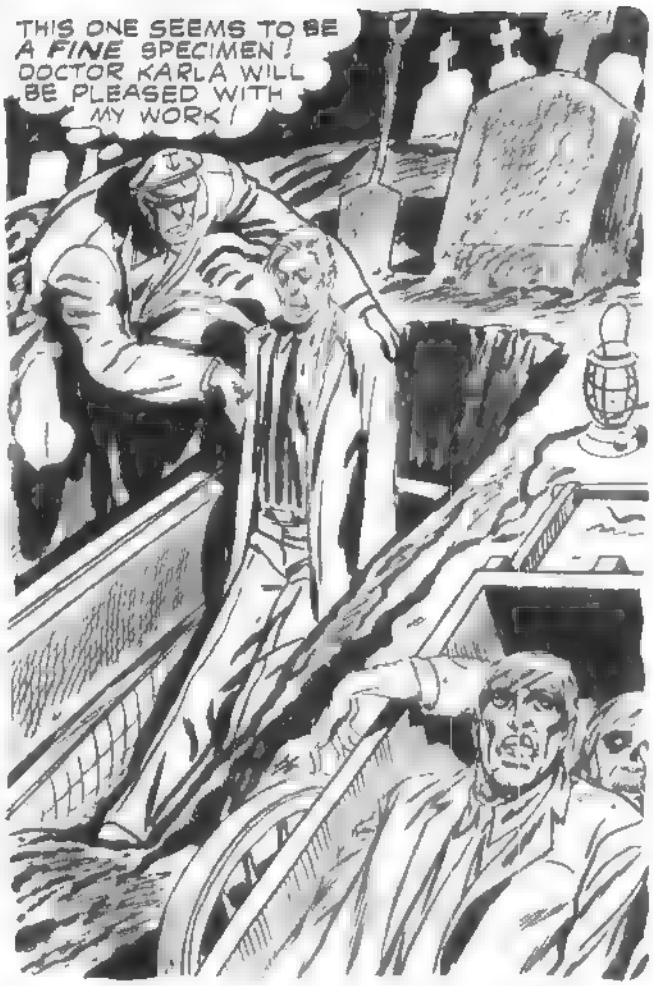
THE STATES ATTORNEY SMILED BUT HE WAS NOT SMILING AT THE END! THERE IS NO HUMOR IN A DEATH SENTENCE!
TO BE HANGED BY THE NECK UNTIL YOU ARE DEAD!
WATKINS STOOD ON THE SCAFFOLD SCREAMING FOR JOHN CLARK... BUT... NO ONE LISTENED!
NO! YOU FOOLS! FIND JOHN CLARK! FIND JOHN CLARK!

HE SCREAMED UNTIL THE TRAP DROPPED! THEN THE SILENCE WAS BROKEN BY WITNESSES AS THEY FILED OUT, SOBER AS MEN ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF DEATH!
IT'S OVER THEN, WARDEN?
YOU HAVE PERMISSION TO CLAIM WATKINS BODY, HANLY, BUT YOU HAVE NO RIGHT HERE!
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
I JUST FELT A SUDDEN CHILL, AS IF A COLD WIND HAD SPRUNG UP!
I'M SORRY IF I'VE BROKEN ANY RULES! I'LL WAIT IN YOUR OFFICE UNTIL I CAN CLAIM THE BODY!
WARDEN, WARDEN!
PORTER, I THOUGHT YOU WOULDN'T BE HERE TONIGHT!
SO THE GUARD TOLD ME! I UNDERSTOOD THAT THE EXECUTION WAS SET FOR ELEVEN! IT'S ONLY TEN NOW!
BUT THE GUARD TELLS ME THE EXECUTION IS ALREADY OVER!
IT S. I UNDERSTOOD THAT YOU WERE ILL! THE OTHER MAN HAD ALL THE PROPER PAPERS. I HAD NO REASON TO DOUBT HIM!
OTHER MAN? WHAT OTHER MAN?
THE MAN WHO HANGED WATKINS! HIS PAPERS WERE IN ORDER! JOHN CLARK, EXECUTIONER! HE SUGGESTED THE CHANGE IN TIME!

JOHN CLARK! WARDEN, THAT'S THE NAME OF THE OTHER MAN GEORGE SAID HE CALLED BACK! DO YOU THINK HE COULD HAVE BEEN.
OF COURSE NOT! I THOUGHT IT A RATHER STRANGE COINCIDENCE, BUT THAT'S ALL!
THERE'S BEEN SOME SORT OF GRIM HOAX! BUT WHOEVER THAT OTHER HANGMAN WAS, HE'LL PAY FOR HIS JOKE! GUARD, GET TO THE GATE! NO ONE IS TO LEAVE! NO ONE!
BUT JOHN CLARK WAS NOT TO BE FOUND! AT LEAST NOT WITHIN THE PRISON WALLS!
WARDEN, LOOK THERE!
THAT'S HIM! IN THE OLD PRISON CEMETERY! HOW DID HE GET OUT? COME ON, WE'LL GET HIM!
ONLY THE WARDEN WAS WRONG! JOHN CLARK VANISHED AS IF THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH HE HAD BEEN ON EARTH NO LONGER EXISTED! WALTER HANLY FOUND THE ANSWER PERHAPS!
JOHN CLARK
1901-1908
A FAITHFUL SERVANT OF THE STATE
STATE EXECUTIONER
1901-1908
PERHAPS THE ANSWER WAS WHAT WALTER HANLY HAD ONCE TOLD GEORGE WATKINS! IF THE DEAD RETURN, IT IS FOR A REASON! REMEMBER THAT!
THE END

THE DEAD DEMONS
NIGHT, AND THE HIDEOUS DEMONS THAT LURK IN THE DARK CORNERS OF THE EARTH SLOWLY EMERGE TO MAKE THEIR HOMES IN THE MINDS OF EVIL MEN... THE DEAD AND THE LIVING MEET AT THE FATAL STROKE OF MIDNIGHT!
NO! NO! IT CAN'T BE! GO AWAY! AHH-H-H-H
YOUR DOOM APPROACHES, DOCTOR! YOU WILL JOIN US IN THE RIVER OF THE DEAD!

IN THE CASTLE OF DOCTOR KARLA, DEEP IN THE BLACK, BEATING HEART OF ASIA, A STRANGE BARGAIN IS COMPLETED...
..AND YOU WILL BRING ME MANY BODIES FROM THE GRAVEYARD ON YOUR FERRY, PETERS! I NEED THEM FOR MY EXPERIMENTS FOR MY CREATION OF A LIVING HUMAN BODY!
KEEP PAYING ME AND I'LL KEEP BRINGING THEM! THERE WON'T BE A CORPSE LEFT WHEN I'M DONE!


THIS ONE SEEMS TO BE A FINE SPECIMEN! DOCTOR KARLA WILL BE PLEASED WITH MY WORK!

THERE SHOULD BE ENOUGH BODIES FOR A DOZEN EXPERIMENTS! HOW MANY DEAD SOULS ARE WANDERING TONIGHT UNABLE TO REST? WHAT IF THEY SHOULD SEEK REVENGE? WHAT IF--- BUT I MUSTN'T THINK OF THAT!!

THERE IT IS! NOW I CAN COMPLETE MY MASTERPIECE!... MY LIVING, BREATHING MONSTER! THE WORLD MUST NEVER KNOW--- NOBODY--- BUT WHAT ABOUT PETERS? I FORGOT ABOUT HIM! HE MUST BE DESTROYED!

AS A DREADFUL CREATURE SPAWNED BY EVIL COMES TO LIFE, SO A DREADFUL PLAN S FORMULATED IN AN EVIL M ND...
TONIGHT, THE ONE MAN WHO KNOWS OF YOUR EXISTENCE WILL DIE! I'LL SNEAK ABOARD HIS SHIP...

THERE'S A STRANGE CHILL IN THE AIR TONIGHT! THE STENCH OF DEATH IS EVERYWHERE! AND I SEEM TO HEAR VOICES!
RETURN US TO OUR GRAVES... YOU MUST RETURN US TO OUR GRAVES!

AS PETERS BEGAN TO DOCK, KARLA LEAPED ABOARD FROM A LAUNCH, AND...
DIE, FOOL! YOU ARE NO USE TO ME ANY LONGER!
WH--?

COME BACK, PETERS! YOU WILL NEVER ESCAPE FROM THIS BOAT!
NO! NO! HAVE I NOT SERVED YOU? HAVE MERCY!

THE VISION OF THE KNIFE ABOVE HIS HEAD SEEKING TO RIP INTO HIS FLESH...THE TERRIFIED PETERS FLEES TO THE CABIN IN WHICH HE HAS PLACED THE HIDEOUS BODIES HE HAS STOLEN FROM THEIR GRAVES...
LET ME IN! I WILL NOT BE SATISFIED UNTIL YOUR BLOOD RUNS ACROSS THE DECK OF THIS SHIP!
DON'T KILL ME, DOCTOR! DON'T KILL ME!

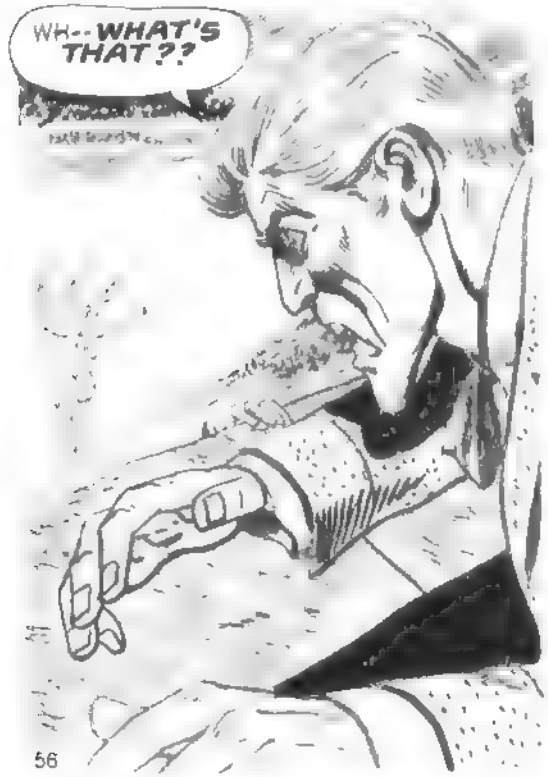
IF YOU KILL ME, THESE BODIES WILL HAVE ALL THEIR REVENGE ON ME FOR OPENING THEIR GRAVES! BUT REMEMBER... YOU GAVE ME THE ORDERS! YOU...
RAVE ON FOOL AND...

DIE!
AAAGH!

SINK INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE DARK RIVER UNTIL THE RIVER TURNS RED WITH YOUR BLOOD! YOU ARE AS DEAD AS THE BODIES YOU BROUGHT ME! HEH-HEH-HEH!

AS THE DAYS PASS THE UNHOLY CREATION BEGINS TO TAKE SHAPE. A NIGHTMARE WORLD TAKES OVER THE HOUSE ABOVE THE RIVER...
AH, MY PRETTY ONE YOU ARE FORMING INTO MY MASTERPIECE AT LAST. SOON YOU WILL WALK AND BREATHE--AND EVEN SPEAK. THE BODIES THAT COMPOSE YOU HAVE BEEN VERY SATISFACTORY!

THERE'S A FEELING OF DEATH TONIGHT. I CAN ALMOST HEAR TORMENTED SOULS CALLING... I MUST GO BACK.
REVENGE FOR YOUR STOLEN BODIES!
REVENGE!
YOU HAVE VIOLATED THE PACT OF DEATH


WH--WHAT'S THAT??

OUT OF THE BROODING BLACKNESS OF THE NIGHT FIGURES OF DOOM APPEAR TO PLAGUE THE MAN WHO HAS CAUSED THEIR SOULS TO WANDER...
WE HAVE COME TO CLAIM YOU FOR THE LAND OF THE DEAD! WE CANNOT REST UNTIL YOUR BODY HAS CRUMBLED TO DUST!

I MUST GET INSIDE!
THERE IS NO ESCAPE!

LEAVE ME ALONE! DON'T TOUCH ME! AH-H-H!

A SUDDEN AND ACCIDENTAL MOVING OF A SWITCH AND THE MONSTROUS CREATURE STIRS AND COMES TO LIFE... A CREATURE WITHOUT MIND OR PURPOSE... BUT ONLY THE TERRIBLE URGE TO DESTROY...
MY CREATION IS MOVING! IT LIVES!
UGGH! ERRGHHH!

NO! DON'T! I GAVE YOU LIFE AND BREATH AND THE POWER TO MOVE! YOU CAN'T... AIEEE!

AS THE GREY DAWN BEGINS A STRANGE PROCESSION MOVES SLOWLY AND STEADILY TOWARDS THE EDGE OF DOOM AND THE WORLD OF DARKNESS...
FOLLOW ME, UNEARTHLY BEING... JOIN US WHERE ALL UNEARTHLY BEINGS LIVE IN THE PAINFUL FIRE OF ENDLESS DAMNATION! COME!

WHERE AM I? N-NO! NO! PUT ME DOWN! AHHH!
MOVE CLOSER TO THE EDGE... CLOSER... CLOSER...
UGHH! EIGHHH! AGH-HH!

I CREATED YOU! I MADE YOU FROM THE CRUMBLING BODIES OF DEAD HUMANS! YOU CAN'T DESTROY ME AND YOURSELF! NO--NO--!

NOW YOUR VENGEANCE IS COMPLETE, SPIRITS OF THE DEAD! NOW YOU CAN REST 'AND MOLD TO DUST IN YOUR DEFILED GRAVES! HE WHO DISTURBED YOUR LONG SLEEP HAS PAID THE TOLL!

DEEP INTO THE DARK, BLOOD-STAINED RIVER, THE DESPOILERS OF THE DEAD MOVE TO THEIR OWN WATERY GRAVES...AS THE INKY SHROUD OF EVIL ENVELOPES THEM...
FOREVER!!
THE END